

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

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R 171511Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9913

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PLAB, AU

SUBJECT: NEW WAGE RECORD IN METALWORKING AND MINING

REF: A-370 JUNE 23, 1973

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. RENEGOTIATION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT COVERING SOME 300,000 METAL AND MINEWORKERS WAS CONCLUDED ON SEPTEMBER 15 PROVIDING FOR INCREASES RETROACTIVE TO SEPTEMBER 1 OF 12.5 PERCENT IN ACTUAL WAGE RATES AND 17.4 PERCENT IN MINIMUM WAGES. AGREEMENT FURTHER STIPULATED THAT GOING WAGE RATES MUST BE RAISED BY A LEAST AS 2.50 PER HOUR OR AS 450 (CURRENTLY \$25.00) PER MONTH. DETAILS BY AIRGRAM. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2.COMMENT: EMPLOYERS HAD HOPED TO KEEP WAGE ADJUSTMENTS IN THIS PACE-SETTING INDUSTRY UNDER 11 PERCENT AND STUCK TO 10 PERCENT OFFER FOR ACTUAL INCREASES AND 14 PERCENT FOR CONTRACTUAL MINIMUM RATES UNTIL THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION. HIGHER WAGE SETTLEMENT MAY WELL TRIGGER UPWARD PRICE ADJUSTMENTS. UNION NEGOTIATING TEAM LED
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BY AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION PRESIDENT BENYA (IN

HIS DUAL CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF METAL AND MINeworkERS)
SUCCEEDED IN IMPLEMENTING ATUF POLICY PROVIDING 3 TO 4
PERCENT INCREASE IN NET SPENDABLE EARNINGS. (SEE REPAIR)
SMALL BUT NOISY COMMUNIST TRADE-UNION FACTION WHICH DEMANDED
20 PERCENT RISE IN GOING WAGE RATES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ATTACK
SETTLEMENT AS INADEQUATE BUT TO NO AVAIL. END LIMITED
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Message Attributes

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